

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7000

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12020

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ASEAN, KS, KN, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET VIEWS ON ASEAN, KOREA

1. SUMMARY. BRITISH REPORT ON RECENT STATEMENTS CONCERNING
ASEAN AND KOREA BY DEPUTY FON MIN ZEMSKOV SHOW SOVIETS
CAREFUL ON ASEAN, TOUGH ON KOREA. END SUMMARY.

2. AT POL COUNSELORS' MEETING JULY 29, BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE
REPORTED THAT DURING RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW DEPUTY SECRETARY
OF STATE CORTAZZI WHO DEALS WITH EAST ASIAN MATTERS AT THE FCO,
HAD RAISED ASEAN AND KOREA WITH SOVIET DEPUTY FONMIN ZEMSKOV.

3. ON ASEAN, CORTAZZI NOTED THAT VIETNAM HAD CONDEMNED
THE RECENT SUMMIT BUT HAD NEVERTHELESS SENT PHAN HIEN
VISITING VARIOUS ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES, AND ASKED ABOUT
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THE SOVIET ATTITUDE. ZEMSKOV HAD REPLIED THAT IN

PRINCIPLE THAT USSR WAS AGAINST CLOSED GROUPINGS OF COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ASEAN GROUP WERE "AT FIRST GLANCE NOT AT ALL BAD" BUT THE PRACTICAL RESULTS WOULD HAVE TO BE LOOKED AT. IN ANY CASE, ZEMSKOV CONCLUDED, THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD HAVE A "WIDER BASE."

4. ON KOREA, CORTAZZI HAD OPINED THAT IT WAS A POTENTIAL AREA OF CONFLICT BECAUSE OF THE ATTITUDES OF THE NORTH KOREANS, AND SAID SOUTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS HAD GIVEN HIM TO UNDERSTAND THAT SEOUL WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP SOME FORM OF RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. IN RESPONSE, ZEMSKOV HAD REFERRED TO THE PRESENCE OF U.S. TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA AND TO THE 30TH UNGA RESOLUTION ON THEIR REMOVAL, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. AS FAR AS CONTACTS WITH SOUTH KOREA WERE CONCERNED, THIS WAS NOT A QUESTION WHICH COULD ARISE FOR THE USSR, ZEMSKOV SAID, NORTH KOREA WAS AN ALLY OF THE USSR. HE THEN REFERRED TO GOVERNOR CARTER'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE SOUTH KOREAN REGIME AND SAID THAT THE SOVIET VIEW OF SOUTH KOREA WAS AT THE VERY LEAST NOT MORE FAVORABLE THAN THAT OF MR. CARTER.

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